

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1                    Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for  
2 use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition **that**  
3 **involves aberrant cholesterol levels**, the method comprising:  
4                    identifying a candidate therapeutic agent by screening one or more compounds to  
5 determine whether said compounds can modulate a CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction;  
6 administering the candidate therapeutic agent to a test mammal; and  
7                    determining whether the level of a cholesterol indicator is modulated in said test  
8 mammal.
- 1                    Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate therapeutic  
2 agent is 5 $\beta$ -pregnan-3,20-dione.
- 1                    Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated disorder  
2 or condition is selected from the group consisting of: hypercholesterolemia, lipid disorders,  
3 atherosclerosis, and cardiovascular disorders.
- 1                    Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the **test** mammal  
2 is a cholesterol-elevated mammal.
- 1                    Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the test mammal has a  
2 disruption in both CAR alleles.
- 1                    Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is  
2 the level of serum cholesterol.

1                   Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is  
2   the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol,  
3   and VLDL cholesterol.

1                   Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is  
2   the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

1                   Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated  
2   intermolecular interaction is CAR-mediated gene expression.

                  Claims 10-32 (canceled)

1                   Claim 33 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for  
2   use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition **that**  
3   **involves aberrant cholesterol levels,** the method comprising:  
4                   administering a compound to a CAR compromised mammal; and  
5                   determining whether administration of the compound results in a change in  
6   cholesterol level compared to a **CAR compromised** mammal to which the compound is not  
7   administered.

1                   Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein the method further  
2   comprises administering the compound to a CAR non-compromised mammal and comparing the  
3   effect on the cholesterol level indicator of administering the compound to that of administering  
4   the compound to the CAR compromised mammal.

1                   Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level  
2   indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

1                   Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level  
2 indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL  
3 cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

1                   Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level  
2 indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

1                   Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said CAR compromised  
2 mammal is a mammal having a disruption in both CAR alleles.

1                   Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said CAR compromised  
2 mammal is a mouse.

1                   Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption occurs in  
2 the coding region for the DNA binding domain of CAR.

1                   Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption in a CAR  
2 allele comprises an insertion at codons for amino acid positions from about amino acid 21 to  
3 about amino acid 86 of CAR $\beta$ .

Claims 42-59 (canceled)